AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0016], [0024], [0039], and [0042] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0016] Fig. 1 is a partial cross-sectional view of a bicycle hub 10 that may be mounted, for example, to a rear frame portion of a bicycle (not shown). Hub 10 includes an axle assembly comprising an axle 18, a fixing nut 22 that threadingly engages one end of axle 18, and a cam nut assembly 26 that engages the other end of axle 18 so that rotation of a cam lever ~~30~~ 36 reduces the axial distance between fixing nut 22 and cam nut assembly 26 and thereby fixes hub 10 to the bicycle in a known manner. An axle shaft 34 surrounds axle 18. Axle shaft 34 is held on axle 18 by a retainer 38 and the end 42 of axle shaft 34 itself. A hub shell 46 is rotatably supported on axle shaft 34 by bearing assemblies 50 and 54, wherein bearing assembly 50 is axially fixed by a sloping surface 58 on axle shaft 34, and bearing assembly 54 is axially fixed by a retainer 62, a spacer 66 and a lock nut 70 disposed on axle shaft 34. A sprocket support 74 is rotatably supported on axle shaft 34 by bearing assemblies 78 and 82and axially supported by retainer 38 in a known manner. Sprocket support 74 also is coupled to hub shell 46 through a one-way ratchet and pawl mechanism 86 in a known manner so that sprocket support 74 rotates relative to hub shell 46 in only one direction.

[0024] In general, a circumferential width WRLP200 of at least one lateral projection 224 is substantially the same as a circumferential width WRIS200 of at least one of the radially inwardly extending splines 236. In this embodiment, a circumferential width WRLP200 of each lateral projection 224 is substantially the same as the circumferential width WRIS200 of its corresponding radially inwardly extending spline 236. Furthermore, the circumferential widths WRLP200 of all of the lateral projections 224 are the same except for a circumferential width WPLP200 of a lateral positioning projection ~~224~~ 224a, and the circumferential widths WRPS200 of all of the lateral projection spaces 233 are the same except for a circumferential width WPPS200 of a lateral projection space 233a. The circumferential widths WRIS200 of all of the radially inwardly extending splines 236 are the same except for a circumferential width WPIS200 of a radially inwardly

extending positioning spline 236a, and the circumferential widths WROS200 of all of the radially outwardly extending splines 240 are the same except for a circumferential width WPOS200 of a radially outwardly extending positioning spline 240a.

[0039] Sprocket 500 includes a plurality of radially outer surfaces 520, one associated with each radially inwardly extending spline 516, that at least partially overlaps its corresponding radially inwardly extending spline 516 when viewed in a direction perpendicular to rotational axis C. Also, each radially outer surface 520 faces a radially inner surface 524 of sprocket body 504 that is substantially straight and parallel to rotational axis C. Since, in this embodiment, each outer surface 520 is associated with a corresponding radially inwardly extending spline 516, each outer surface 520 extends only partially in a circumferential direction of sprocket 500, and more particularly, each outer surface 520 has the same circumferential width as spline 516. Side wall 508 overlaps the plurality of outer surfaces 520 when viewed in a direction parallel to rotational axis C.

[0042] In this embodiment, the plurality of radially inwardly extending splines 516 are offset from first side wall portion 530 in the direction of rotational axis C. For example, each radially inwardly extending spline 516 extends from second side wall 534b and terminates at a free end 516b, wherein free end 516b is spaced apart from first side wall 530b in the direction of rotational axis C. This is made possible while maintaining a reasonable axial thickness of each radially inwardly extending spline 516 and having the outer surface 520 face a corresponding inner surface 524 by making a thickness Tt of transition wall portion 538 greater than a thickness Ts of radially inwardly extending spline 516 in the direction of rotational axis C. Also, thickness Ts is greater than a thickness T1w of first wall portion 530 and a thickness T2w of second wall portion 534, wherein T1w equals T2w in this embodiment. Thus, thickness Ts is greater than a thickness T2w of the root portion of composite spline 516x in a direction of rotational axis C. ~~One~~ In one preferable example, ~~of~~ thicknesses Ts, T1w and T2w are 1.6 mm, 1.6mm and 2.3mm, respectively.